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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/635,786	08/05/2003	Masaru Aiso	393032039900	2713

7590 08/18/2008  
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EXAMINER
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SUTHERS, DOUGLAS JOHN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2615

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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08/18/2008

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/635,786	<b>Applicant(s)</b> AISO ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> DOUGLAS SUTHERS	<b>Art Unit</b> 2615	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 July 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4,5 and 7-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-2,4-5,7-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 05 August 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)          | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

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### DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 12-15 have been added. Claims 1-2, 4-5, and 7-15 are pending and are addressed in this office action.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-2, 4-5, and 7-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over claims the Roland VS-1680 Owner's manual in view of Ohmori et al. (US 2001/0008572 A1).

4. Regarding claim 1, Roland discloses a signal processing apparatus comprising:  
a plurality of input ports (page 18, items 13-15) that receive audio signals from a plurality of devices;  
a plurality of output ports (page 18, items 5-9) that transmit control signals to said plurality of devices;

a plurality of input channels (page 14, shown as items 4-6) to which audio signals are inputted from the devices;

a plurality of operating elements (6) associated with respective ones of said input channels;

an input patch that sets connections between said input ports and said input channels (input mixer shown on page 25);

setting means for setting one-to-one correspondence between said input ports and said output ports (mixing sections, pages 25 and 26); and

transmission control means that performs, when any of said operating elements is operated, control such that the control signal is transmitted from the output port that correspond to the input port connected to the input channel that correspond to the operated operating element (when fader is changed, the output of corresponding input is reduced in the output).

Roland does not disclose the devices as external or the control signals being non-audio signals.

Ohmori discloses a plurality of output ports (figure 1, from 4 to 14A-14D) that transmit, to a plurality of external devices (14A-14D), control signals for controlling the operations of said plurality of external devices, said control signals being non-audio signals (s1, paragraph [0051]).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use the external devices of Ohmori in the system of Roland. The motivation for doing so would have been to add video mixing/editing to the audio system

of Roland. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Ohmori with Roland to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

5. Regarding claim 2, Roland discloses wherein said input patch is capable of changing the connections between said input ports and said input channels (page 25).

6. Regarding claim 4, Roland discloses further comprising a display that displays a screen for prompting an output setting for each of said input ports (top of page 42).

7. Regarding claim 5, Roland discloses a signal processing apparatus comprising:  
a plurality of input ports (page 18, items 13-15) that receive audio signals from a plurality of devices;

a plurality of output ports (page 18, items 5-9) that transmit control signals to said plurality of devices;

a plurality of input channels (page 14, shown as items 4-6) to which signals are respectively inputted from the devices associated with respective ones of said input ports;

a plurality of operating elements (6) associated with respective ones of said input channels;

an input patch that sets connections between said input ports and said input channels (input mixer shown on page 25);

setting means for setting at least one of first one-to-one correspondence between said input ports and said output ports, and second one-to-one correspondence between said input channels and said output ports (mixing sections, pages 25 and 26);

a mode setting device (fader button, bottom of page 26) that selectively sets either one of a first mode in which one of the output ports from which the control signal is to be transmitted is determined on an input port basis (input mixer) and a second mode in which one of the output ports from which the control signal is to be transmitted is determined on an input channel basis (track mixer); and

transmission control means that performs, when any of said operating elements is operated in a state where the first mode is set, control such that the control signal is transmitted from the output port which is made to correspond to the input port connected to the input channel corresponding to the operated operating elements (when fader is changed, the output of corresponding input is reduced in the output), said transmission control means performing, when any of said operating elements is operated in a state where the second mode is set, control such that the control signal~ is transmitted from the output port which is made to correspond to the input channel corresponding to the operated operating element (when fader is changed, the output of corresponding track is reduced in the output).

Roland does not disclose the devices as external or the control signals being non-audio signals.

Ohmori discloses a plurality of output ports (figure 1, from 4 to 14A-14D) that transmit, to a plurality of external devices (14A-14D), control signals for controlling the

operations of said plurality of external devices, said control signals being non-audio signals (s1, paragraph [0051]).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use the external devices of Ohmori in the system of Roland. The motivation for doing so would have been to add video mixing/editing to the audio system of Roland. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Ohmori with Roland to obtain the invention as specified in claim 5.

8. Regarding claim 7, Roland discloses further comprising a display that displays a screen,

wherein the display displays a screen for prompting an output setting for each of the input ports if said mode setting device sets the first mode (top of page 42) and displays a screen for prompting an output setting for each of the input channels if said mode setting device sets the second mode (middle of page 42).

9. Regarding claims 8 and 9, the computer claims 8 and 9 are rejected in an analogous manner to method claims 1 and 5 respectively given that the unit is run by a central processing unit and associated software.

10. Regarding claim 10, Roland discloses further comprising:

input port selecting means that selects the input port connected to the input channel corresponding to the operated operating element (page 25).



11. Regarding claim 11, Roland discloses further comprising:

input port selecting means that selects the input port connected to the input channel corresponding to the operating element operated in a state that the first mode is set (page 25); and input channel selecting means that selects the input channel corresponding to the operating element operated in a state that the second mode is set (page 26).

12. Regarding claims 12-15, Ohmori discloses wherein the control signal is comprised of one of a fader-on event (play, paragraph [0012]) and a fader-off event.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-2, 4-5, and 7-11 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

13. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DOUGLAS SUTHERS whose telephone number is (571)272-0563. The examiner can normally be reached on 8am - 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vivian Chin can be reached on (571)272-7848. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2615

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Douglas Suthers/  
Examiner, Art Unit 2615

/Vivian Chin/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2615